Overcharging by Drug Companies

3023. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of instances of over-charging the consumers by drug companies have come to the notice of his Ministry;

(b) what are the details of such instances;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has received complaints about certain officers who are looking after price fixation and price monitoring of medicines in this department;

(d) if so, what are the details of such complaints and action taken against them;

(e) whether it is also a fact that certain companies have increased the prices of price decontrolled medicines by more than 100 per cent during 1988 without any justification;

(f) if so, what are the names of those medicines;

(g) what were their prices before DPCO, 1987 and their present prices; and

(h) what are the details of areas of drug industry being monitored by his department and what is the set up of each?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (h) The required details to the extent available will be collected and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Drugs being produced tion Process

3024. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has shifted the category of a staple drug needed for treatment of TB on the plea of encouragement of production through fermentation from basic stage;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the category of PAS, INH and Streptomycin used for treatment of TB being produced from basic stages has not been changed to encourage production;

(c) what are the names of drugs being produced in the country from fermentation process;

(d) how many drugs are covered under price control;

(e) whether Kelkar Committee made any recommendation in respect to any drug being produced through fermentation process; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) On the basis of recommendations contained in the Supplementary Report of the Kelkar Committee, Rifampicin has been shifted from Schedule-I of DPCO, 1987 to Schedule-II.

(c) to (f) The required details to the extent available will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Notices to Drug Companies

3025. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has not even issued reminders to drug companies who failed to provide details in respect of recoveries into DPEA under Para (2) of DPCO, 1979 after December, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that only in some cases reminders were issued in the month of December, 1988 and January, 1989; and

(d) if so, what are the names of those companies along with names of the concerned drugs and formulations?